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pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/172,286, filed October 14, 1998, ^{now U.S. Patent No. 6,347,344} which is incorporated
by reference herein as fully as if set forth in its entirety.--

TQN
06/17/02

In the Claims

For the purposes of this continuation application, please cancel pending claims 2-18.

Fees

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademarks Office Deposit Account No. 12-2825.

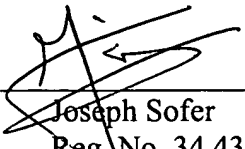
Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims currently pending in the above identified application are now in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If in the Examiner's opinion the prosecution of the present application would be advanced by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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Dated: February 5, 2001